

§ 9.7 Classification authority.

(a) In the Department of State authority for original classification of information as "Top Secret" may be exercised only by the Secretary of State and those officials delegated this authority in writing, by position or by name, by the Secretary or the DAS/CDC, as the senior official, on the basis of their frequent need to exercise such authority. Normally these will not be below the level of Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department; or Chief of Mission, Charge d'Affairs, or principal officer at an autonomous consular post overseas.

(b) Authority for original classification of information as "Secret" may be exercised by officials with Top Secret authority, the Administrator of AID, and the Director of USIA. This authority may be delegated to such subordinate officials as the senior official in the Department, the administrator of AID or the Director of USIA may designate in writing, by position or by name, on the basis of their frequent need to exercise such authority. Normally, these will not be below the level of office director, section head (in a mission abroad), country public affairs officer, or equivalent.

(c) Authority for original classification of information as "Confidential" may be exercised by officials with Top Secret or Secret classification authority, and the President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation; and may be delegated to such subordinate officials as the senior official in the Department, the Administrator of AID, the Director of USIA, or the President of OPIC may designate in writing, by position or by name, on the basis of their frequent need to exercise such authority.

(d) Delegated original classification authority at any level may not be re-delegated.

(e) In the absence of an authorized classifier, the person designated to act for that official may exercise the classifying authority.

(f) In the Department of State the Classification/Declassification Center, and in AID and USIA the Office of Security, shall maintain a current listing, by classification designation, of the positions or officials carrying

original classification authority. The listing shall be reviewed as needed to ensure that such delegations have been held to a minimum, and that officials so designated have a continuing need to exercise such authority.

§ 9.8 Limitations on classification.

A reference to classified documents which does not directly or indirectly disclose classified information may not be classified or used as a basis for classification.

§ 9.9 Duration of classification.

(a) Information shall be classified for as long as is required by national security considerations. When it can be determined, a specific date or event for declassification shall be set by the original classification authority at the time the information is originally classified.

(b) Information classified under predecessor orders that is not subject to automatic declassification or that is marked for review before declassification shall remain classified until reviewed for declassification.

(c) Automatic declassification determinations under predecessor orders shall remain valid unless the classification is extended by an authorized official of the originating agency. These extensions may be by individual documents or categories of information. The agency shall be responsible for notifying holders of the information of such extensions as soon as possible. The authority to extend the classification of information subject to automatic declassification under predecessor orders is limited to those officials who have classification authority over the information and are designated in writing to have original classification authority at the level of the information to remain classified. Any decision to extend this classification on other than a document-by-document basis shall be reported to the Director of the ISOO.

§ 9.10 Derivative classification.

(a) Derivative classification is made by a person, not necessarily having original classification authority, based on an originally classified document or as directed by a classification guide.

The derivative classifier may be one who reproduces, extracts, restates, paraphrases, or summarizes classified materials, or applies markings in accordance with source material or a classification guide.

(b) Derivative classifiers must respect original classification markings. Only if the derived document, by means of paraphrasing, excising, etc., has clearly lost the original grounds for classification, may its original classification be removed or lowered.

(c) Subject to paragraph (b) of this section, markings on derivatively classified material, including declassification instructions, shall be carried forward from the original material, or shall be as directed by the classification guide.

§ 9.11 Derivative classification guides.

(a) Agencies with original classification authority shall prepare classification guides to facilitate the proper and uniform derivative classification of information, except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section.

(b) Each guide shall be approved personally and in writing by an official who:

(1) Has program or supervisory responsibility over the information or is the senior agency official who directs and administers the information security program; and

(2) Is authorized to classify information originally at the highest level of classification prescribed in the guide.

(c) Classification guides shall, at a minimum:

(1) Identify or categorize the elements of information to be protected;

(2) State which classification level applies to each element or category of information; and

(3) Prescribe declassification instructions for each element or category of information in terms of (i) a period of time, (ii) the occurrence of an event, or (iii) a notation that the information shall not be automatically declassified without the approval of the originating agency.

(d) Classification guides shall be reviewed at least every two years and updated as necessary. Each agency shall maintain a list of its classification guides in current use.

(e) Agency heads may, for good cause, grant and revoke waivers of the requirement to prepare classification guides for specified classes of documents or information. In the Department of State, the DAS/CDC, as senior official, shall make recommendations to the Secretary concerning such waivers. In AID, the Inspector General shall make recommendations to the Administrator concerning such waivers. In USIA, the Director of the Office of Public Liaison shall make recommendations to the Director concerning such waivers. The Director of ISOO shall be notified of any waivers. The decision to waive the requirement to issue classification guides for specific classes of documents or information should be based, at a minimum, on an evaluation of the following factors:

(1) The ability to segregate and describe the elements of information;

(2) The practicality of producing or disseminating the guide because of the nature of the information;

(3) The anticipated usage of the guide as a basis for derivative classification; and

(4) The availability of alternative sources for derivatively classifying the information in a uniform manner.

§ 9.12 Identification and markings.

Except in extraordinary circumstances as provided in section 1.5(a) of the Order, or as indicated herein, the marking of paper documents shall not deviate from the following prescribed formats. These markings shall also be affixed to material other than paper documents, or the originator shall provide holders or recipients of the information with written instructions for protecting the information. These markings include one of the three (3) classification levels defined in § 9.5, the identity of the original classification authority (except as noted under paragraph (b)(ii) of this section) the agency and office of origin (except as noted under paragraph (b)(ii) of this section) and the date or event for declassification or the notation "Originating Agency's Determination Required" (OADR).